

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In Figs. 3 and 4, the ring-shaped (washer-shaped) flare stopper 31 is made of, for example, a phosphor bronze plate having a thickness of 0.03 mm by sheet metal stamping. The inner portion 31a of the flare ~~[[topper]]~~ stopper 31 is dented with respect to the outer portion thereof, and the inner periphery 31a has the form of the side face of a circular truncated cone. After sheet metal stamping, the flare stopper 31 is painted matt black to prevent reflection. The flare stopper 31 is so fitted into the circular groove 30a of the spacer 30 that the inner periphery 31a thereof faces onto the third lens element 23. Thus, the inner periphery 31a is inclined with respect to an optical axis L of the taking lens unit 11.--